

Barbara Gilpin

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3453 '99 JUN 15 P2:36
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June 9, 1999

Lyle D. Jaffe
Dockets Management
FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Drive, Room I-23
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Mr. Jaffe:

The lives of today's hens are miserable enough to begin with. Hens grown for their eggs are squeezed with up to five others into an indoor, wire cage with floor space the size of a folded newspaper! Born to flap their wings and walk around, they are barely able to move; most can not even sit comfortably. To stop them from pecking at each other out of desperation, workers slice off the chicks' beaks with a hot blade.

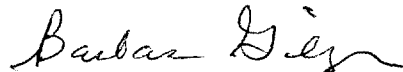
Bad enough! But when egg production drops, they endure the attempt to make one last laying cycle before slaughter by unnaturally forcing the hens into a "molt."

Research has shown that forced molting, besides being cruel and inhumane, is a major cause of salmonella poisoning in eggs. The stressful conditions weaken the birds' immune systems so badly that they become prone to the disease. The result is sick birds and contaminated eggs.

Please ban this barbarous practice.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Barbara Gilpin

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